

The following message has been released to the field.

UNCLASSIFIED//

DTG (Zulu): 2005/01/13 13:50:00 Z

Subject: Safety Of Use Message (SOUM), TACOM Control No. SOUM 05-002
"Operational," Standardized Vehicle Weapon System Inspection During
Redeployment. All Vehicles and weapon systems are affected.

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D      XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX D
A      X                      "WARNING"                      X  A
N      X DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY TO SOLDIERS, OR DAMAGE      X  N
G      X TO ARMY EQUIPMENT WILL OCCUR IF THE INSTRUCTIONS X    G
E      X IN THIS MESSAGE ARE NOT FOLLOWED.                    X    E
R      XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX      R
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1. Distribution:

A. This is an "Operational" Safety Of Use Message. MACOM Commanders will retransmit this message to all subordinate Commands/Activities within 24 hours of receipt of this message and acknowledge receipt of this message within five working days to: CDRTACOM, Warren MI, AMSTA-LC-LMIM, DSN 786-6096, Commercial (586) 574-6096 or DDN address: Safetyofuse@Tacom.Army.Mil.

B. MACOM Commanders will also track and report compliance of this message for all subordinate Commands/Activities to: Terry Smart, DSN 786-7849, Commercial 586-574-7849 or via email at: smartt@tacom.army.mil, NLT 15 February 2005.

2. Problem: Between 1 Sep and 1 Nov 04, the Project Manager Combat Systems (PM-CS) was notified of 5 separate occurrences of live ammunition and/or explosives being found on vehicles as they arrived in CONUS after being shipped from the theater of operations in the SWA region. One of the reported incidents occurred on a Bradley Fighting Vehicle with a live 25MM round of ammunition in the feeder of the gun system. The gun system was also shipped as a fully operational component of the vehicle with the bolt and track assembly installed.

3. User Actions:

A. All crewmembers will turn in and clear all ammunition and explosives from their vehicles at any one of the designated collection points along the redeployment route.

B. IAW AR 190-11, chapter 4, unmanned weapon systems installed in tanks, vehicles or aircraft will be rendered inoperable by the removal of barrels or other essential firing components. These components shall be locked in a separate container within the vehicle or other structure with secondary locking mechanisms. Bolt and track assemblies will be removed from Bradley Fighting Vehicle 25MM gun systems to render the firing system non-operational during shipment. Transport of the bolt and track assemblies is at the discretion of the owning MACOM.

C. There is no regulatory guidance for removing essential firing components from the 120MM Abrams Tank Main Gun System however, it is recommended to remove and provide separate transport of the firing pin assembly.

D. It is the responsibility of the unit command element at the time of redeployment to ensure their vehicles are clear of all ammunition and explosives. Unit level safety representatives should institute a plan to inspect and certify all vehicles and weapon systems (including small arms) are clear of ammunition and explosives and properly prepared for shipment during the redeployment process. Ample opportunities to turn in all ammunition and explosives at centralized collection points exist during redeployment. The class V inspections need to be a coordinated and dedicated program to support safe operations during the return to home-station.

E. Unit Commanders, contact your local TACOM Logistics Assistance Representative (LAR) or your State Surface Maintenance Manager upon receipt of this message for assistance. For assistance in locating your TACOM LAR, see paragraph 6D.

4. TACOM/PM actions: Field notification of measures to be taken to prevent future occurrences of inappropriately shipped ammunition or explosives along with awareness of regulatory guidance for the proper shipment of weapon systems of all calibers.

5. Supply Status: There are no supply concerns/requirements.

6. FOR POCs: [https://acc.dau.mil/adl/en-US/542675/file/66983/\(S0UM%2005-002\)%20Standardized%20Vehicle%20Weapon%20System%20Inspection.docx](https://acc.dau.mil/adl/en-US/542675/file/66983/(S0UM%2005-002)%20Standardized%20Vehicle%20Weapon%20System%20Inspection.docx)